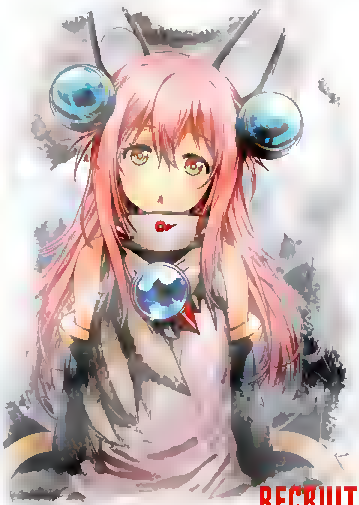

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presents

Q

by Srihira Tatsuya

chapter 2

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【Q】
gobble
gobble
chomp
chomp
—NOT TO BOAST BUT, IN MY 22 YEARS I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF CARNAGE, OR SO I THOUGHT
MUNCH
MUNCH
SIP—
AND I'VE PICKED UP A LOT OF ORPHANS
...HOWEVER, THIS ONE—
GULP

WHAT IN THE WORLD!?
Q...

REM, SECONDS
...AIN'T ANY
台場コミューン
食料庫

#2
Super Weapon Model KR1
[クー]
YEAR 20XX, THE EARTH'S SKIES HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY A MONSTER KNOWN AS SOLARIS.
SOLARIS DROPS THE EGGS OF MONSTERS CALLED DEMI ON HUMANS WHO LOOK UP AT THE SKIES— TO THE SIDE OF HUMANITY SUFFERING FROM THE FURY OF THE DEMI, THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL Q HAS APPEARED.... JUST WHAT IS HER TRUE IDENTITY?
SHIHIRA TATSUYA

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!? THE WHOLE STOCKPILE OF FOOD WAS EATEN BY A SINGLE PERSON!? ALL OF IT!!
THE ENTIRE STOCKPILE OF FOOD I'D SAVED UP OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR WAS DEVOURED ALL AT ONCE!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE HOLDING ON TO SOMETHING LIKE HIDDEN FOOD.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GET ALONG WITH HER
I'M NOT WILLING TO LOOK AFTER THAT BRAT ANY LONGER
ARE YOU WILLING TO ABANDON HER?
HEEE SO YOUR RESOLVE TO "WANT TO PROTECT THOSE WITHIN MY REACH" IS ONLY AT THAT LEVEL, HUH

THE WORST—
……!
LISTEN UP, MANA, ABOUT THAT BRAT
AMAZING, NEE-CHAN!!
THE ONE WHO DEFEATED THAT DEMI WAS NEE-CHAN, RIGHT!?
I SAW IT!!
I SAW IT TOO
G-CHAN WENT KAPU AND BIT DOWN, AND THE MONSTER WENT BAWAWA— AND DISAPPEARED!!
G-CHAN IS UNDOUBTEDLY A HERO THAT ARRIVED FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING US!

AMAZINGGG!
GOOD GRIEF, THAT Q-CHAN GIRL SURE IS POPULAR.
EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMED LIKE THOSE MONSTERS COULD TROD ON UNDETONATED ORDNANCES UNHARMED
EVEN THOUGH SHE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE KID, THIS BRAT IS A... MONSTER!!
THAT'S WRONG...!!
THAT BRAT... ISN'T HUMAN... MUCH LESS A HERO
I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES AS SHE SWALLOWED THAT MONSTER WHOLE
NEE, WHERE DID Q-CHAN COME FROM?

Q
...FROM THERE.
.....
—FROM THE SKY?

REM-NII ..
I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK AT THE SKY, HAVEN'T I?
!!
Q?
WE NEED TO TALK.
...Q,
COME WITH ME FOR A BIT.
UH— UMM..
Q...
CHAN—.
.....!

KINO...?
I'LL GIVE YOU... THIS CANDY THAT I'VE BEEN CAREFULLY HOLDING ON TO
AM... AMAZINGLY DELICIOUS... THIS CANDY... I LOVE IT.
Q
.....
. .LET'S GO,
Q
SO...
PLEASE STAY WITH US.... AND... PROTECT US. .
Q

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO DOWN.
IT'S HERE...
ゴゴゴゴ...
WELL, BECAUSE OF AN "OLD FRIEND"
THIS IS A FOOD STORAGE WAREHOUSE ONLY I KNOW ABOUT...
ARE THERE THE ROUND THINGS?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT'S A HIDDEN ARMY WAREHOUSE. HOWEVER, 23 YEARS AGO, THESE FACILITIES WERE ABANDONED
round ?
AAAH... YOU MEAN DONUTS?
THERE AIN'T NONE OF THOSE, BUT INSTEAD—
nuts ?

THESE THINGS ARE HERE,
THE MILITARY'S MOBILE RATIONS
"SUPER STRONG YOKAN" (ISH)"... THEY'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE SPICY, BUT THE FLAVOR ISN'T BAD.
CAN I EAT?
...YEAH
HAVE PLENTY

—DON'T WAVER DON'T WAVER!!
THIS BRAT IS JUST A MONSTER WITH THE APPEARANCE OF A CHILD!!
IF I DON'T DISPOSE OF HER HERE AND NOW IT WILL PUT US IN A SITUATION WE CAN'T TAKE BACK!!
HURRY SHOOT QUICKLY!!!
SHITTT.. IF ONLY SHE DIDN'T HAVE THIS APPEARANCE—
REM
.....
...W

AH-AHHH!
THAT'S GOO-...
THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT'S THIS ?

KUH!!
I'M NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED, BUT WITH THIS THE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.
HEH
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE BRAT, BUT WITH THIS SHE'S—
ゴゴゴゴ
……

...HEY HEY
YOU'RE KIDDING...!
ボロ
Q'S FOOD IS GONE.

!!
UWAAA
Q'S TASTIES
WERE SNATCHED AWAY!!

GYA AA!!
OH CRAP, I'M GONNA DIE!!
seriously!!
SHIT! THOSE EARS WERE ULTRASONIC WEAPONS!!
OH YEAH, THAT OTHER TIME HER MEAL GOT INTERRUPTED...
I GET IT, I'LL BUY YOU A BUNCH OF DONUTS SO CALM DOWN —— !!
...I GOTCHA, IT WAS MY BAD!!
...IT DIED DOWN...?
!

REM
REALLY?
AHHHH
AH...
SO BE A GOOD GIRL AND GO BACK TO THE COMMUNE LIKE AN ADULT.
Ram promises
donuts!
It's donuts

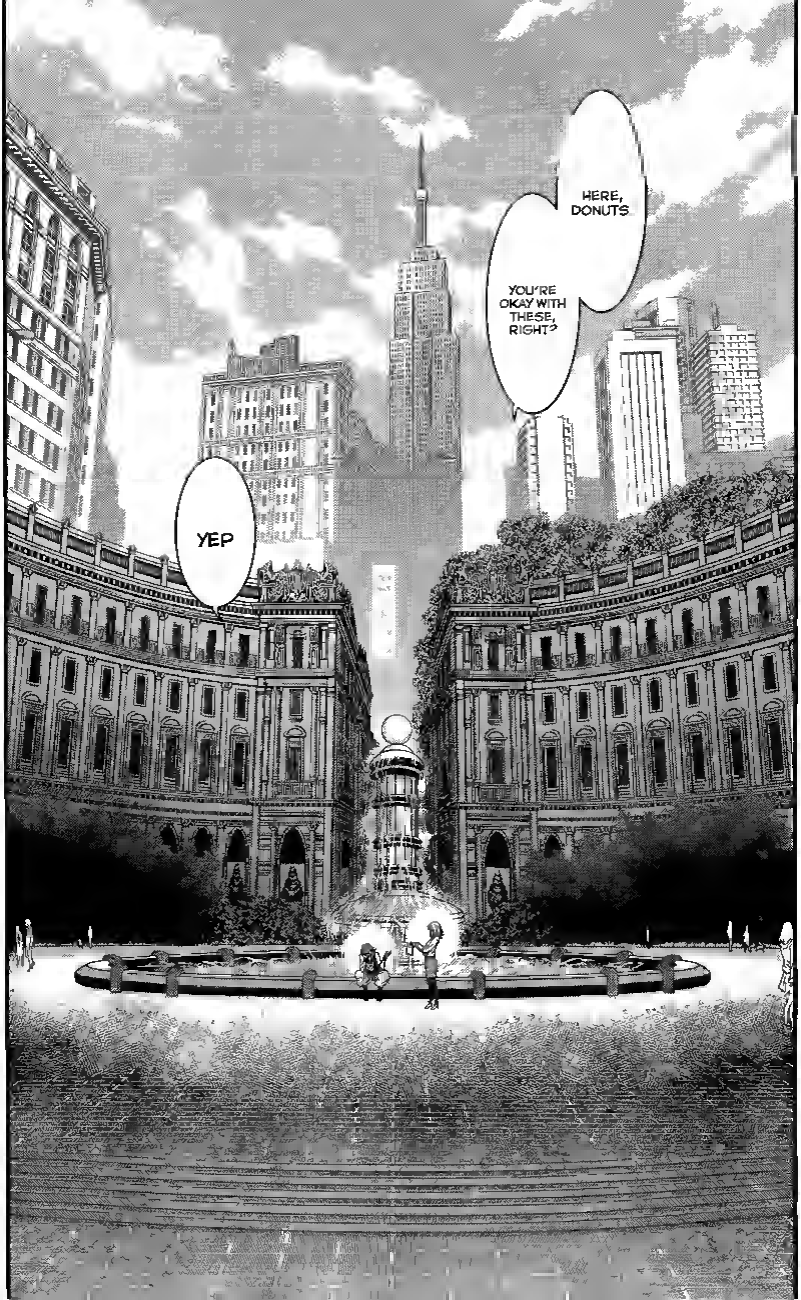
Armed Forces' Base
Tokyo Section
(Old Haneda Airport)
COLONEL LEO. HERE'S THE REPORT FROM WATCHTOWER 2101
HUMPH/ YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THE PLACE WHERE A MULTITUDE OF FALLEN EGGS WERE PARTIALLY DESTROYED, THOSE GUYS ARE THERE?
PUT OFF THE FOLLOW UP FOR A WHILE
— MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW IS THE CONDITION OF "MODEL KR1"?
THERE ISN'T ONE... OUR ON-SITE MEN ARE CLEANING UP THE SCENE NOW...
HOH... SO THEN, THE AFORE-MENTIONED ARMY REPORT IS?
AND FELL INTO THE DAIBA COMMUNE
YESTERDAY AT 16:40 A G2 EGG WAS RELEASED FROM "SOLARIS"

SIR! THE ENGINE'S OUTPUT IS 208 OF THE FUEL INJECTED.
THE TEST FLIGHT PLAN IS FEASIBLE TODAY AT 20:00!
ALL RIGHT!!
THE WRATH OF HEAVEN IS ABSOLUTELY INESCAPABLE
WITH THIS I CAN EASILY BLOW SMOKE AT THAT ANNOYING U7!!
I'LL FLAUNT THE GALLANT FIGURE OF A TRUE SOLDIER TO THAT DETESTABLE SOLARIS!!
COLONEL, IT WOULD BEST THAT YOU DO NOT GO IN THE DIRECTION OF PARTNERING WITH PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES...
It's not mature at all
COLONEL
KR IS JUST THE MODEL NUMBER.
THE ARMED FORCES MODEL KR1
KING REVENGER!!

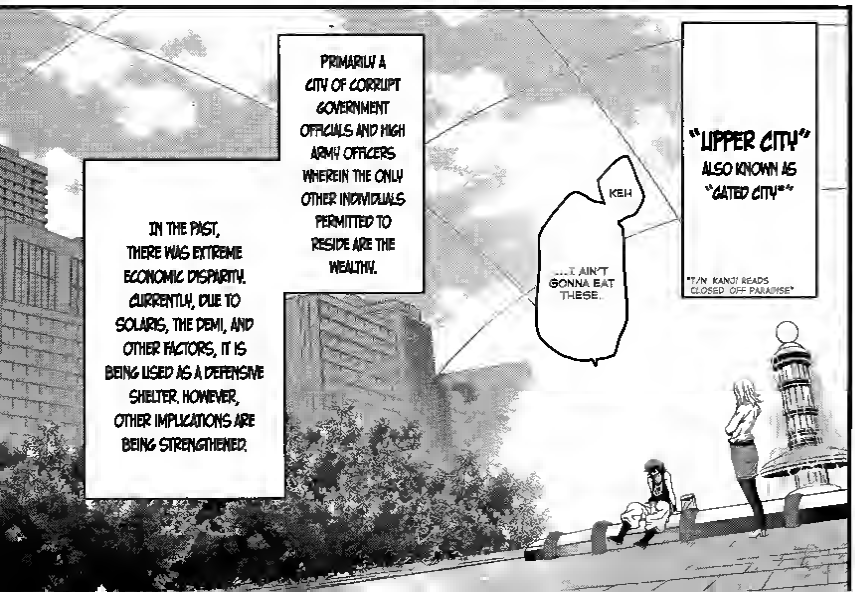
LIKE I SAID, I HAVE BUSINESS WITH IRIYA!!
You're lying. Your meeting with Inya is scheduled for 12:00
I LOST MY CELL AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT!!
We haven't been advised about a change in schedule

Those without appointments may not enter Upper City
The safety of the inhabitants of the city must be ensured
Infomation
Though you say you aren't a suspicious individual, where is the evidance?
.....!!
...THIS PIECE OF JUNK!! IF I DON'T HURRY AND MEET IRIYA AND GET MY HANDS ON THOSE "GOODS", WHAT'LL THAT BRAT DO...?!
Donuts
My bird wasn't able to get the donuts after all
Kill
Ram isn't very tasty
phew
You are being ordered to evacuate within 10 seconds
In the event that you don't comply with this order by Upper City Safety Code Article 99 we will be forced to remove you from...
WHAA AA—!? I GET IT, I GET IT!!
JEEZ

I DON'T WANNA RELY ON THIS PERSON, BUT...
Thank you for visiting
HONEY POT
—YOU SURPRISED ME, SOMEONE LIKE YOU COMING HERE, PRIVATELY VISITING ME.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO ENTER THE CITY?
is it a trade secret?


HERE, DONUTS.
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THESE, RIGHT?
YEP

.....
IF YOU'D LIKE, FROM NOW ON YOUR COMMISSION CAN BE PAID IN DONUTS, HOW ABOUT IT?
I WASN'T AWARE
THAT YOU HAD SUCH A BIG SWEET TOOTH...


"UPPER CITY" ALSO KNOWN AS "GATED CITY"*
*T/N: KANJI READS CLOSED OFF PARADISE"
KEH
...I AIN'T GONNA EAT THESE.
PRIMARILY A CITY OF CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND HIGH ARMY OFFICERS WHEREIN THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUALS PERMITTED TO RESIDE ARE THE WEALTHY.
IN THE PAST, THERE WAS EXTREME ECONOMIC DISPARITY. CURRENTLY, DUE TO SOLARIS, THE DEMI, AND OTHER FACTORS, IT IS BEING USED AS A DEFENSIVE SHELTER. HOWEVER, OTHER IMPLICATIONS ARE BEING STRENGTHENED.

WHAT'CHA GETTING ALL ANGRY FOR?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU HAD ANOTHER FIGHT WITH MANA-CHAN?
These clients are quests for oh-ag-i-ng-ly, for example
IT AIN'T REALLY GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YA.
WHAT'S THAT? SO COLD
—IT'S JUST,
I TOTALLY PICKED UP A CUTE, CUTE KITTEN
THERE'S ONE PROBLEM THOUGH,
THAT KITTEN IS A VOLATILE BOMB THAT NEEDS THIS TO BE DIFFUSED, OR SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES
I'M NOT REALLY SURE AS TO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT
SINCE THIS IS YOUR LONG AWAITED CHANCE, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LOOK AT THE SKY?
—IT'S AN ARTIFICIAL SKY, BUT
IT CAN AT LEAST BE A CHANGE OF PACE

SINCE THERE'S A SOLID IMAGE THAT COMPLETELY PREVENTS THE EYES FROM MEETING WITH "SOLARIS"
THE WATER, THE AIR, THE TREES... EVEN THE MEAT AND VEGETABLES ARE ALL ARTIFICIALLY PRODUCED. "PARADISE", HUH?
IT'S AN ENVIABLE POSITION.
NAH
YOU SAY THAT, BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT I'M REFRESHED.
DISSATISFIED?
—INCIDENTALLY, THERE'S ONE OTHER REFRESHMENT THAT I'D LIKE
WOULD YOU COLLABORATE WITH ME ON SOMETHING, MS WEATHER LADY?
—CERTAINLY.

I GOT TWO HITS.
ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL WEATHER OBSERVATION CENTER... OTHER THAN FALLEN EGGS, OTHER THINGS HAVE FALLEN FROM THE SKY.
IN THE [illegible] TWO WEEKS IN THIS AREA OVER THE WESTERN PACIFIC THERE WAS A CASE OF A METEOR FALLING FROM A SHOWER
FOLLOWING THAT, THREE DAYS AGO IN A NORTHERN PART OF SIBERIA, A DECREPIT ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE FELL

AT ANY RATE, EVER SINCE SOLARIS APPEARED TEN YEARS AGO... THE NUMBER OF EGGS WE'VE GOTTEN FROM THE SKY WORLDWIDE HAS BEEN 200 PER DAY ON THE AVERAGE
BY SOME CHANCE THIS MAY BE AN INFORMATION LEAKAGE, HOWEVER THIS KIND OF LOCATION WAS REPORTED TO THE WEATHER OBSERVATION CENTER, HUH
.....

.....
HUH?
....A METEORITE
WHAT'S WRONG?
HOLEY!!!
COULD IT BE...
THOSE DONUTS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?
IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL
WELL THEN SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION
OH? YOU'RE GOING BACK ALREADY?
WELL THEN BE CAREFUL.
IF YOU'RE ABLE TO GO BACK ♡
ガチッ
ガチャ

ガチャン
……!!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS...!?
O—DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
TODAY STARTING AT 20:00 (8 PM) THE ARMED FORCES SUPER WEAPON MODEL KR1 HAS A TEST FLIGHT
IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE, ALL OF THE GATES HAVE BEEN CLOSED OFF.
NOT EVEN A SINGLE ANT CAN GET OUT.

COME THEN, THERE IS NO ESCAPE.
SPILL OUT ALLLLLL OF YOUR SECRETS
TO THIS ONEE-SAN♡

FIRE!!
Solaris
COLONEL LEO,
SOLARIS HAS ENTERED FIRING RANGE.

COME
THEY'VE FINISHED BAKING.
WITH THIS WE SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED EVERYONE
YEAH!
WE'VE FINISHED COLLECTING ALL THE LUGGAGE OVER HERE—
YEAH, THANKS.
IT'S TOO BAD WE HAVE TO MOVE, HUH. BUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE DISAPPEARED FROM THIS PLACE BECAUSE OF THE RACKET MADE BY THE MONSTER, NONETHELESS
THANKS TO THAT WE WERE ABLE TO USE BAKER-SAN'S KITCHEN
Huh? Is that true
BUT COULDN'T THE MONSTERS ATTACK US WHILE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF MOVING?
...DURING THAT TIME WE CAN HAVE Q-CHAN DEAL WITH IT,
RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT!
わーっ!
BUT REM IS LATE!
DONUTZ!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HE IS.
I WONDER WHERE THAT GUY WENT, LEAVING Q-CHAN ALL ALONE.
Q
HEY! IT'S NO GOOD TO BE EATING AGAIN.
That's the limit for tomorrow!
NOT LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT WILL HAPPEN
That a small child like Rem could
……
もぶもぶ
EVEN THOUGH WE PLANNED TO MOVE TO A NEARBY COMMUNE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
!!?

WHA WHAT!? EARTHQUAKE!?
!? Q-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
!!
...WHAT'S THAT... AN EGG...?
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THAT BIG...

—THE DATA WAS RIGHT.
WHEN SOLARIS TAKES A DIRECT ATTACK HIS SELF DEFENSE INSTINCTS WILL ACTIVATE
AND A MAX GRADE DEVI WILL BE BORN.
TRULY A WORTHY ENEMY FOR THIS SHIP'S FIRST BATTLE.

REM DIDN'T COME BACK
SO I'LL SETTLE FOR THAT.
THAT'S NO GOOD! Q-CHAN!!
COME BACK HERE!!

Q IS HUNGRY.

MAIN GUNS, LEFT AND RIGHT HYPER RAIL GUNS!
DEPLOY THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD! SET THE ENERGY TO 100%!! FIRE AT WILL!!
ALRIGHT!! AIM THE "INCREDIBLE TWIN HAMMER"!
THOSE KINDS OF WEAPONS AREN'T EVEN INSTALLED!

—DEMI SENSOR ACTIVATED
THE LOCATION IS... NEAR SHIODOME
THE GRADE IS MAX... IT SEEMS THE ARMED FORCES LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON SOLARIS.

THOSE FOOLS... EVEN IF IT'S A JOKE THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT.
OH BOY, WE HAVE TO CLEAN THEIR DIAPERS AGAIN
DON'T BE DISPIRITED
MOPPING UP THE DEMI IS OUR JOB.

★ A THREE-WAY... NO, A FOUR-WAY BATTLE HAS STARTED!?

To be continued

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